Will I live with my host in his/her home?

The Hosts to International Students Program (SUHISP) is a friendship program, not a homestay program. Students in the program have their own housing.

What are a host’s responsibilities?

The main responsibility of your host is to keep in touch with you. Your host will be a supportive friend by inviting you to a meal in their home or at a restaurant, to visit a museum or attend an event with them, or just to go for a walk.

Who can be your host?

It will be one of faculty members, staff, administration, alumni of SU and SU Alumni Family Council. Single people, couples, single parents and other families of all sizes are hosts in the program.

How are your host matched with you?

Matches are made based on the sign-up forms on this website and are made on a first-come, first-serve basis. You will be asked if you have any preferences about your host, but we cannot guarantee they will be met. We try to match up students and hosts with common interests based on the information provided on the questionnaires, but we ask that you keep an open mind about who they are. As a student, you would receive information about your host during the summer, and would be asked to contact him or her via email.

How much time will you spend with your host?

It is all up to you.

What do you do during vacations with your host?

Students go home, travel, or stay in their own on- or off-campus accommodations. If you are invited to spend all or part of a holiday by your host, you may, but this isn’t an expectation or requirement of the program.

What if a match doesn’t work?

We try to make matches that satisfy both the host and the student. If a match doesn’t work, we ask the student and the host to contact the program coordinator so that a new connection may be made.

Where do I sign up?

Student applications for SUHISP are available online. For more information contact Burcu Ergin, the IRO staff at degree-incoming@sabanciuniv.edu

Expectations

* After you receive your host name and email over the summer, you will email she or he. Please make sure you are in contact before the semester begins.

* The commitment is for the student’s first year at SU, but it is our hope that you will continue to stay in contact with each other. Basically, all that is required is your time and interest in your host.

* As students become busy with their studies and other activities, host may need to be pro-active in initiating getting together. Enjoy getting to know your host!
* Events do not have to be elaborate or costly. They can be as simple as:

- Having breakfast or drinking coffee at your kitchen table
- Going to the supermarket
- Watching a sports event
- Celebrating a birthday
- Going to movies, concerts or performances
- Going trekking
- Exploring different neighborhoods, towns, etc.
- Your most important contribution is to express care, whether it is spending time together or calling just to say "hi."

As students, please remember that you are volunteers. Although you may generously decide to do so, you do not expect to provide housing by your host, pick you up at the airport, drive you around, or invite you home for the holidays. In addition, the program is not meant to be an advising service. Note that you do not expect to function as academic advisors or counselors. If you have questions please contact with the IRO at degree-incoming@sabanciuniv.edu